

THEY DON'T OWN THE TOWN.

WHAT CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NO. 4
SAYS OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

**A Strong Report From the Committee
on Schools Demanding that the Board
of Trustees Shall Be Chosen by the
People.**

Citizens' Association No. 4 met last night

In Carroll Institute Hall. At a few minutes past 8 o'clock the meeting was called to order by President Jesse B. Wilson. Mr. Edward W. Donn acted as secretary.

On the call of committees, Mr. Noble D. Larner, of the committee on schools, sub-

mitted a report, of which the following is a summary, with the remark that the report was final, the matter having been turned over to the representative committee:

He reported that little if anything could be done in the matter of providing ad-

ditional schoolroom accommodation for the south half of the second division, and asked further time to report thereon. "As to opposing the appropriation of the Henry building to the use of the high school, your committee is awaiting the report of the special committee appointed to inquire into

The legality of such appropriation. As to admission of pupils to the high school your committee has learned from a published resolution of the advisory school board that teachers of eighth grade schools may prepare in consultation with supervising principals lists of their pupils for transfer to the high school, and such lists when trans-

Regarding the condition of the common schools the committee says: "It is a matter of common knowledge that there now exists a condition of affairs in the common schools of this city which is such that the superintendent shall entitle the pupils whose names are on them to admission to the high school without examination."

exists and has existed for some time past a feeling of unrest and discontent on the part of the people of the second division in respect to the management of their schools. This feeling amounts to a belief that their schools are deteriorating. A good many people think the deterioration began soon after our home trustees were displaced by

Mr. Henry H. Copp and Prof. John W. Hunt were each invited to examine two schools to ascertain their proficiency. Mr. Copp began this work, but was stopped by Supt. Powell. Prof. Hunt also made application to examine a school, which was not granted. These means of securing

knowledge of the condition of the schools not being granted, the committee has sent a printed memorandum of information regarding the schools to the commissioners to be filled out, but no answer had been received.

"Not one of us," said the report,

"dreamed of any objection to the examination. Of a few of the schools, and that so far as the committee can learn, such examinations have heretofore been welcomed and invited." The report also intimates that the reason for such restriction was the knowledge of the poor condition of the schools by those who refused to have

them examined. This gave rise to the inquiry whether the people who pay the taxes to maintain the schools, and the parents whose children attend them, have any right to inquire into—at proper times—the condition of their schools. The committee had no doubt of such right, and stated that it was a branch of the

"The less the officials obtrude themselves," said the report, "especially by orders, the more agreeable it generally is to everybody. But when these officials indulge in arbitrary

"There is another way to consider the question. The govern ment of the District is a civil corporation, and the citizens and taxpayers are interested parties, who have a right to find out how the officers of the

corporation are administering their trust. These officers don't own the town, but are merely agents for those who do. Now, are the owners to be told by their agents that they cannot inquire into the management of corporation affairs? And yet this is what the citizens and taxpayers of Association

No. 4 was told.

"In conclusion, your committee submits that it proceeded with courtesy and fairness, at the proper time, in the proper manner, and by proper persons, to ascertain the present condition and needs of the common schools of the second division, and if the confession on the part of the school

authorities of unwillingness to have their methods subjected to the test of an independent examination, or, in other words, to a confession of failure, your committee cannot help it."

During the progress of an animated discussion on the conduct of the school authorities toward the committee some evil-minded urchin threw a cannon cracker through one of the open windows into the room; the explosion which followed put

[illegible]

Resolved, That the report of the committee on schools be accepted and adopted; and that a copy of said report, and of the former report on school buildings and sites, and of the whereases and resolutions of the advisory school board, which followed, and of the published interview with Commissioner Webb respecting the subject-matter of said form

report, and of the published interview with Chairman Lerner in reply, and of Communist Webb in rejoinder, be transmitted to the Representative Committee of One Hundred for its information and action.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Strasburger then offered the following :

Whereas there are large sections of this sub-district entirely destitute of school accommodations, and it appearing that the commissioners of the District have, under authority of a recent act of Congress, selected and purchased sites for school buildings in localities now abundantly supplied with such buildings, contrary to the expectations of this association and contrary, as we believe, to the intention

Resolved, That the association is of the opinion that said sites, so purchased, should be sold and the proceeds of such sale devoted to the purchase of sites in localities where school buildings are needed, provided that such course is found practicable.

Resolved, That the delegates of this association to the Representative Committee of One Hundred be, and they are hereby, requested and directed to favor an early application

The resolution was adopted.

insert in the police regulations an ordinance which would make it an offense to stop a street car on a street crossing. He said that in all other large cities some such regulation was in force; a street car should not be allowed to stop outside the building line on a crossing.

There was much discussion on that section in which the association insisted on the right to take immediate action on matters purely local without referring them to the representative committee. The cry

On motion of Mr. Given, further discussion on that section was postponed until next meeting.

Mr. Durrant, the association of Jamaica.